

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
NEA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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R 240321Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1528
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02091

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, CY, TU
SUBJECT: CYPRUS: MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY: ESTABLISHMENT OF A MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE
WAS DISCUSSED LAST TWO DAYS WITH GOC LEADERS AND TFSC
"PRESIDENT" DENKTASH. ICRC'S BORSINGER IN GENEVA WAS
INFORMED; LATTER RESTATED ICRC'S POSITION
ON OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE OF COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

2. PURSUANT TO NIMETZ/MEZVINSKY TELCON ON MAY 22,
INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH A MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE
WAS RESUMED WITH CALLS BY US REP ON UNHCR
MEZVINSKI ON PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU AND FM ROLANDIS AND
LATER ON MR. DENKTASH. MEZVINSKY PRESENTED
LAST DRAFT OF ARTICLES (NICOSIA 339, FEB 7, 1978) TO
KYPRIANOU ON MAY 22 WITH EXPLANATION THAT BOTH
SIDES WERE CLOSE TO AGREEMENT AND OPPORTUNITY
OF KYPRIANOU'S PRESENCE IN NEW YORK SHOULD NOT BE
MISSED. KYPRIANOU TOOK POINT BUT ADDED THAT HE DID
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NOT WISH TO NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH DENKTASH.
MEZVINSKY SAID HE WOULD AGAIN VERIFY WITH ICRC
ITS ROLE, WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD WOULD BE PARTICIPATION
WITHOUT CASTING A VOTE AND WITHOUT ISSUING A "MAJORITY
VIEW". GOC LEADERS REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD NEED A
COUPLE OF DAYS TO CONSULT WITH NICOSIA (MISSING
PERSONS GROUP) PARTICULARLY ON THE DECISION-MAKING

PROCEDURE.

3. CONCLUDING CONVERSATION, KYPRIANOU NOTED THAT ESTABLISHING A MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE WOULD HELP HIM IN MEETING THE DEMANDS OF THE FAMILIES OF MISSING PERSONS IN CYPRUS. HE COMMENTED THAT A DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE LAST WEEK IN NICOSIA PROTESTING THAT THE GOC WAS NOT DOING ENOUGH ON MISSING PERSONS.

4. IN TELEPHONE CALL ON MAY 23 TO ICRC REPRESENTATIVE BORSINGER IN GENEVA, MEZVINSKY ASKED HOW ICRC INTERPRETED ITS ROLE AS THIRD PARTY IN COMMITTEE. BORSINGER RESTATED ICRC'S POSITION (GENEVA 191, JANUARY 7) NAMELY THAT THE ICRC REPRESENTATIVE WOULD SEEK NORMALLY TO MEDIATE DIFFERENCES BUT WOULD IF NEED BE REACH OWN INDEPENDENT CONCLUSION. BORSINGER CONTINUED THAT ICRC WOULD ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH 3 CATEGORIES: (1) MISSING, (2) MISSING, BELIEVED KILLED, (3) DIED ON SPECIFIC DATE. MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE WOULD INFORM GOC AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS OF THE COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS AND EACH OF THESE IN TURN WOULD INFORM APPROPRIATE FAMILIES.

5. IN MEETING WITH DENKTASH ON MAY 23, MEZVINSKY AND MISOFF ROWE REVIEWED ICRC'S INTERPRETATION OF ITS ROLE AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 4. DENKTASH REMARKED
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THAT THIS WAS ALSO HIS UNDERSTANDING OF ICRC'S POSITION AND HE WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH THIS PROCEDURE. DENKTASH REVIEWED ARTICLES OF DRAFT AND CONCURRED IN ALL, BUT ADDED A COMMENT THAT HIS ONLY CONDITION WOULD BE KYPRIANOU'S AGREEING TO MEET WITH HIM "AT THE TABLE" IN INITIALLING THE DOCUMENT ESTABLISHING THE COMMITTEE.

6. DENKTASH NOTED THAT WHEN HE DISCUSSED MISSING PERSONS WITH WALDHEIM ON MAY 22, WALDHEIM CONVEYED KYPRIANOU'S OBJECTION TO THE ICRC'S NOT CASTING A VOTE OR PARTICIPATING IN A MAJORITY VIEW. KYPRIANOU SUGGESTED THAT IF THE ICRC WOULD NOT VOTE, ANOTHER THIRD PARTY SHOULD BE FOUND. (NOTE: UN SECRETARIAT SOURCE CONFIRMED TO US KYPRIANOU'S REMARKS ON ICRC'S NOT VOTING.) MEZVINSKY REPLIED TO DENKTASH THAT WE ARE HOPEFUL THERE IS CERTAIN FLEXIBILITY IN GOC POSITION AND THAT FOLLOWING OUR CONTACT WITH GOC OFFICIALS WE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH DENKTASH. DENKTASH ADDED THAT HE WOULD INFORM THE GOT IMMEDIATELY OF HIS ASSENT TO THE DRAFT. AFTER IT IS SIGNED HE WOULD MAKE CERTAIN

THAT THE GOT ISSUES A STATEMENT EXPRESSING ITS FULL
SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE. DENKTASH NOTED THAT HE
AND NOT THE GOT WOULD SIGN THE ACTUAL AGREEMENT.

7. WE HAVE KEPT UN SECRETARIAT INFORMED OF OUR
CONVERSATIONS. THEY ARE FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF
RENEWED ATTEMPT TO LAUNCH COMMITTEE AND WILL ENCOURAGE
OUR EFFORT WITH BOTH SIDES WHENEVER POSSIBLE. YOUNG

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